

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up any separate corporation for Speed Post Service;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the efficiency of general post distribution is being affected due to stress on speed post; and
- (d) if so, the manner in which the Government ensure the regular postal distribution ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir, there is no proposal to set up a separate corporation for Speed Post Service. With effect from 1, 2, 1996 Business Development Directorate has been set up and this looks after the premium products including Speed Post.

- (b) In view of reply at (a) above, does not arise.
- (c) No, the General Postal distribution is not affected due to stress on Speed Post.
- (d) In view of reply at (c) above, does not arise.

[English]

#### Subsidy for Small Hydro Projects

409. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government are providing subsidy for small hydro projects in hilly areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the States included in the scheme;
- (d) the reasons for excluding some States;
- (e) whether some State Governments have made requests to the Union Government for their inclusion in the scheme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources provides financial assistance for undertaking feasibility studies and implementation of small hydro projects upto 3 MW station

capacity, all over the country, including the hilly areas. 100% financial assistance is provided for conducting survey and investigations, and 50% for DPR preparation. Interest subsidy upto Rs. 1.12 crore/MW is provided for commercial projects, and capital subsidy of Rs. 15,000/KW for projects upto 100 KW capacity. Higher capital subsidy of upto Rs. 3 crore/MW is provided for projects in the North Eastern States.

(c) and (d) All the States/UTs are covered under the various schemes. However, the hilly regions of Jammu & Kashmir, U.P., Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, North Eastern States, and A&N Islands, are provided higher subsidy in view of higher capital costs on account of remoteness and difficult logistics of such areas.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

N.H.P.C.

410. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) the Power Projects which are being executed by the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) at present.
- (b) the capacity of each of such hydro-electric project;
- (c) whether some of those power projects are likely to be completed by the end of 1997-98; and
- (d) the time by which the other ongoing hydro-power projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Three Hydro-Electric Project namely Dulhasti (3x130 MW) in Jammu & Kashmir, Rangit (3x20 MW) in Sikkim and Dhauliganga (4x70 MW) in Uttar Pradesh are under execution at present by national Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC). The work on the Koel Karo Hydro-electric Project (710 MW) in Bihar could not be started due to paucity of funds and local resistance. The Kurichu Hydro-electric Project (3x15 MW) in Bhutan and the Kalpong Hydro-electric Project (2.25 MW) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are also being executed by NHPC on deposit basis.